

certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 426

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 426, a bill to increase educational assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for education and training of physician assistants of the Department, to establish pay grades and require competitive pay for physician assistants of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 18

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 18, a resolution reaffirming the United States-Argentina partnership and recognizing Argentina's economic reforms.

S. RES. 60

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 60, a resolution designating May 5, 2017, as the "National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls".

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 64—CONGRATULATING THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION ON ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. JOHNSON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 64

Whereas the Plastics Industry Association is the leading association in the United States that represents companies in the plastics industry;

Whereas the Plastics Industry Association was founded as the Society of the Plastics Industry in 1937 in Shawnee-on-Delaware, Pennsylvania, as the collective voice of a then-nascent plastics industry and has since become the chief advocate for the entire plastics supply chain, including plastics machinery manufacturers, plastics material suppliers, plastics processors, moldmakers, recyclers, and consumer brand owners;

Whereas, today, the Plastics Industry Association represents the interests of an industry that makes regular and vital contributions to the healthcare, automotive, advanced manufacturing, transportation, aeronautics, building and construction, telecommunications, recycling, packaging, and consumer electronics sectors;

Whereas, over the course of the 80-year history of the Plastics Industry Association, the association has—

(1) advocated for the use of plastics; and  
(2) presided over the development of plastic from a low-cost replacement for metals, wood, glass, marble, shell, and other traditional materials to the sustainable material of choice because of its strength, light weight, recyclability, and design versatility;

Whereas the Plastics Industry Association hosts NPE: The Plastics Show, which is the second largest trade show in the United States and attracts more than 60,000 plastics professionals from more than 100 countries to the United States every 3 years;

Whereas the Plastics Industry Association has hosted NPE: The Plastics Show in the United States since the show was first founded in 1946 and the show has served as a platform for growth and innovation in the plastics industry of the United States for 70 years;

Whereas the Federal Government, through the War Production Board, recognized the importance of plastics and the contributions of plastics to the war effort during World War II, a conflict in which plastics played an essential military role with respect to weaponry, aircraft, wire and cable technology, medical devices, and troop supplies; and

Whereas the plastics industry generates \$418,000,000,000 in revenue annually in the United States and supports approximately 954,000 jobs: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Plastics Industry Association on its 80th anniversary;

(2) reaffirms the crucial role that plastics have played over the last 80 years and continue to play in strengthening the economy of the United States and improving the everyday lives of the people of the United States; and

(3) recognizes the importance of continued investment in plastics, manufacturing, research, and education in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 65—DESIGNATING MARCH 3, 2017, AS "NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE EDUCATION DAY"

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 65

Whereas it is essential for youth to learn and practice the art of communicating with and without technology;

Whereas speech and debate education offers students myriad forms of public speaking through which students may develop talent and exercise unique voice and character;

Whereas speech and debate education gives students the 21st-century skills of communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration;

Whereas critical analysis and effective communication allow important ideas, texts, and philosophies the opportunity to flourish;

Whereas personal, professional, and civic interactions are enhanced by the ability of the participants in those interactions to listen, concur, question, and dissent with reason and compassion;

Whereas students who participate in speech and debate have chosen a challenging activity that requires regular practice, dedication, and hard work;

Whereas teachers and coaches of speech and debate devote in-school, afterschool, and weekend hours to equip students with life-changing skills and opportunities;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day emphasizes the lifelong impact of providing people of the United States with the confidence and preparation to both discern and share views;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day acknowledges that most achievements, celebrations, commemorations, and pivotal moments in modern history begin, end, or are crystallized with public address;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day recognizes that learning to research, construct, and present an argument is integral to personal advocacy, social movements, and the making of public policy;

Whereas the National Speech & Debate Association, in conjunction with national and local partners, honors and celebrates the importance of speech and debate through National Speech and Debate Education Day; and

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day emphasizes the importance of speech and debate education and the integration of speech and debate education across grade levels and disciplines: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 3, 2017, as "National Speech and Debate Education Day";

(2) strongly affirms the purposes of National Speech and Debate Education Day; and

(3) encourages educational institutions, businesses, community and civic associations, and all people of the United States to celebrate and promote National Speech and Debate Education Day.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 66—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

Mr. Kaine (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 66

Whereas a competitive global economy requires workers who are trained in skilled professions;

Whereas, according to the National Association of Manufacturers, 80 percent of respondents indicated a moderate to severe shortage of qualified skilled production employees, including front-line workers such as machinists, operators, craft workers, distributors, and technicians;

Whereas career and technical education (referred to in this preamble as "CTE") ensures that competitive and skilled workers are ready, willing, and capable of holding jobs in high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand career fields such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, nursing, allied health, construction, information technology, energy sustainability, and many other career fields that are vital in keeping the United States competitive in the global economy;

Whereas CTE helps the United States meet the very real and immediate challenges of economic development, student achievement, and global competitiveness;

Whereas approximately 11,500,000 students are enrolled in CTE across the country with CTE programs in thousands of CTE centers, comprehensive high schools, career academies, and CTE high schools, and nearly 1,700 2-year colleges;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the 3 fastest growing occupations require an associate's degree or a degree with fewer requirements, and each has an annual median salary greater than \$50,000;

Whereas CTE matches employability skills with workforce demand and provides relevant academic and technical coursework

leading to industry-recognized credentials for secondary, postsecondary, and adult learners;

Whereas CTE affords students the opportunity to gain the knowledge, skills, and credentials needed to secure careers in growing, high-demand fields;

Whereas CTE students were significantly more likely than non-CTE students to report having developed problem-solving, project completion, research, math, college application, work-related, communication, time management, and critical thinking skills during high school;

Whereas students at schools with highly integrated rigorous academic and CTE programs have significantly higher achievement in reading, mathematics, and science than students at schools with less integrated programs; and

Whereas February 23, 2017, marks the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Act of February 23, 1917 (commonly known as the “Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act of 1917”) (39 Stat. 929, chapter 114), which was the first major Federal investment in secondary CTE and laid the foundation for the bipartisan, bicameral support for CTE that continues as of February 2017: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 2017 as “Career and Technical Education Month” to celebrate career and technical education across the United States;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education month;

(3) honors the 100th anniversary of the Act of February 23, 1917 (commonly known as the “Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act of 1917”) (39 Stat. 929, chapter 114);

(4) recognizes the importance of career and technical education in preparing a well-educated and skilled workforce in the United States; and

(5) encourages educators, counselors, and administrators to promote career and technical education as an option for students.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, our Nation’s continued economic competitiveness relies on the education and skills of the American workforce and its ability to meet and adapt to the 21st-century economy. Career and technical education, CTE, programs are a critical component to every student’s education, creating diverse pathways into further education and developing careers. Today, approximately 11.5 million students are enrolled in CTE, encompassing every State through nearly 1,700 two-year and thousands more secondary CTE centers, comprehensive high schools career academies and CTE high schools.

According to the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Career, Technical and Adult Education, in 2012, the average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs was 93 percent, compared with the national average of 80 percent. These students gain real-world skills through applied learning, and integrate their academic curriculum with technical and employability skills. In addition, our Nation’s continued economic competitiveness relies on the skill of the American workforce and its ability to meet and adapt to the 21st-century economy.

CTE prepares students with education and training leading to indus-

try-recognized credentials, including certifications, licenses, certificates and degrees, in a wide variety of fields. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, of the top three fastest-growing occupations, all will require real-world skills that can be mastered through CTE—none require a bachelor’s degree and all have median salaries above \$50,000 per year. By increasing opportunities for students to obtain postsecondary skills training and meaningful credentials, CTE can spread economic opportunity to all students who are willing to work for it.

Today with my Senate CTE Caucus cochairs Senator PORTMAN, Senator BALDWIN, and Senator YOUNG and other colleagues in the Senate, I am introducing a bipartisan resolution to designate February as Career and Technical Education, CTE, Month. CTE Month provides a chance for students, counselors, educators and administrators to learn more about the educational opportunities available in their communities and recognize the importance of CTE in preparing a well-educated and skilled workforce in the United States. This year’s resolution also marks the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Hughes National Vocational Education Act of 1917, the Nation’s first major federal investment in secondary CTE.

By formally recognizing CTE Month through this resolution, it is our hope that we can build greater awareness for the importance of strengthening access to high-quality CTE for millions of America’s students and our nation’s continued economic competitiveness.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 67—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS COACHES AND FOR THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 13, 2017, THROUGH FEBRUARY 19, 2017, AS “NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS COACH RECOGNITION WEEK”

Mr. HEINRICH submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 67

Whereas February 13, 2017, through February 19, 2017, is recognized as “National Health and Wellness Coach Recognition Week”;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers chronic diseases to be “the public health challenge of the 21st century”;

Whereas decades of research have linked lifestyle factors, such as inactivity, poor diet, tobacco smoking, and sustained stress, with increased risk for major illnesses and death;

Whereas the costs associated with treating many chronic diseases are high and often preventable;

Whereas a health and wellness coach is a new type of healthcare worker who serves as a supportive mentor to motivate individuals to make positive health choices and move toward specific wellness goals;

Whereas health and wellness coaches support clients in achieving good health—

(1) based on the goals of each client; and

(2) in a manner consistent with the treatment plan recommended by a healthcare provider for the client;

Whereas health and wellness coaches assist clients in making healthy lifestyle changes by encouraging them—

(1) to use insight;

(2) to use personal strengths and resources;

(3) to set goals;

(4) to create action steps; and

(5) to hold themselves accountable;

Whereas health and wellness coaches play a vital role in improving individual wellness that complements, and does not replace, the work of healthcare professionals; and

Whereas an increasing number of studies demonstrate the effectiveness of health and wellness coaches in—

(1) improving individual health and wellness; and

(2) reducing healthcare costs: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of February 13, 2017, through February 19, 2017, as “National Health and Wellness Coach Recognition Week”; and

(2) supports the efforts of the health and wellness coaches of the United States in their important work to improve the health and wellness of the people of United States.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 191. Mr. CORNYN (for Ms. MURKOWSKI) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 55, recognizing February 26, 2017, as the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Denali National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 191. Mr. CORNYN (for Ms. MURKOWSKI) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 55, recognizing February 26, 2017, as the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Denali National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska; as follows:

Amend the sixteenth whereas clause to read as follows:

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve has provided a wide array of visitor experiences to tourists, including hiking, dog mushing, rafting, and cycling;

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today’s session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, February 17, 2017, at 12:30 p.m., in room S-216.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following